



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 9, 2008

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To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Food Stamp Reauthorization

On June 5, 2008, the Senate passed, 77 to 15, H.R. 6124, a revised Farm Bill, sending it to the President, who has indicated that he will veto it. The bill, which includes language to reauthorize the Food Stamp Program, adds a title to the Farm Bill which was accidentally left out of H.R. 2419, the previous enacted version of the legislation. H.R. 6124, otherwise, is identical to H.R. 2419, which the President vetoed because it was too costly and did not reform farm subsidy payments, such as by eliminating payments to affluent farmers. Congress is certain to override the President's veto, just as it overrode, by a wide margin, his veto of H.R. 2419 last month.

Climate Change Bill (S. 3036)

On June 6, 2008, the Senate killed the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act legislation (S. 3036) when the Senate rejected a motion to close debate on Senator Boxer's substitute amendment, which would have served as the base bill language for floor debate. The amendment would require a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 19 percent by 2020 and 71 percent by 2050. It would achieve such reductions through a new cap-and-trade system in which the total amount of emissions would be capped, and the emissions allowed by the cap would be divided into allowances (permits) that would grant the owners/producers the right to emit certain amounts of pollution. Such emission allowances may be bought, sold, banked, and traded. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would establish the quantity of annual emission allowances, raise revenue by auctioning some allowances, and also would distribute some free allowances at no charge to certain recipients.

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Under the Climate Security Act bill (S. 2191), which was approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, states would have received a portion of the free emission allowances, but none would have been allotted to local governments. Under the Boxer substitute amendment, \$136 billion of the estimated \$3.3 trillion in revenue from auctioned allowances through 2050 would be allotted to the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program, which goes to local governments. The President had threatened to veto the Climate Security Act legislation. Even before the Senate rejected the bill last week, it was not expected to be enacted this year.

Hospital and Public Health Preparedness Grants

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced hospital and public health preparedness grant allotments for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 to states, territories, and four major metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles County. The total amount of hospital preparedness grant funding decreased from \$415 million in FFY 2007 to \$398.1 million in FFY 2008. Total available public health preparedness grant funding dropped from \$896.7 million to \$704.9 million in FFY 2008, mainly because Congress appropriated \$175 million for pandemic influenza preparedness in FFY 2007, but not in FFY 2008. The County's hospital preparedness grant allotment fell from \$13.1 million in FFY 2007 to \$12.3 million in FFY 2008 while its public health preparedness grant allotment fell from \$30.7 million to \$22.9 million in FFY 2008.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MAL:MT:mp

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist